estimated to be of Rs. 64.94 crore, which has been released. Since the net losses were not found to be reduced for the year 2003-04 as compared to year 2002-03, Kerala was not eligible for incentive for the year 2003-04. Regarding the incentive claim for the year 2004-05, the eligible incentive of Rs. 82.99 crore has also been released by the Government of India to Kerala. Proposals for release of incentive claims received upto 31.03.2007 were considered under the scheme. As the proposals for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 were received in January 2008 only, these were not considered.

Development of areas near NTPC units

*2272. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC-a PSU, is not spending required amount for the development of rural areas near its plants;

(b) whether Government is also aware that this results in tension in nearby villages and people resort to agitation at some places;

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government for its prevention; and

(d) the amount spent by NTPC in this regard so far and the future plan it has in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) NTPC is taking up activities related to development of rural areas near its plants based on specific needs and requirements of particular location emerging by assessment of needs through Need Assessment Surveys, in consultation with local community and the local administration and plans to continue to do so in future also.

During the year 2007-08, NTPC spent Rs. 15.53 crores against various community development and welfare measures. Total expenditure during last 3 years was 41.6 crores.

Ministry of Power reviews the corporate social responsibility activities of NTPC during the Quarterly Performance Review (QPR) meetings.

Electricity losses

†2273. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that average power loss at national level is estimated to be upto 33 per cent;

(b) if not, the facts thereof and the amount being spent currently on generation of this quantum of power;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of this loss is due to theft and if so, the percentage of the theft and whether this power theft is the result of collusion between Government officials and consumers; and

(d) if not, the reaction of Government thereto and whether in order to check this theft, the Planning Commission has recommended that private sector should be entrusted with the responsibility of power distribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by Central Electricity Authority (CE'A), energy lost in transformation, transmission and distribution and energy unaccounted for as a percentage of energy available for supply for the country for the year 2007-08 (provisional) is 26.91. Considering the reasonable level of losses as 15%, the approximate amount spent on generating the energy lost over and above the 15% loss level, the amount works out to be Rs. 16594.21 crore (based on average rate of power as 197.78 paisa per unit).

(c) Prior to year 2001-02, utilities used to monitor Transmission and Distribution (T and D) losses. Concept of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT and C) loss was introduced in 2001-02. AT and C loss captures not only technical losses, but also captures theft, pilferages and commercial losses due to poor metering and billing and non-realization of dues. The draft report on Performance of State Power Utilities for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07 prepared by the Power Finance Corporation indicates that the AT and C Losses of the State Power Utilities at the national level for 2006-07 was 33.07% of the total energy available for sale.

(d) The Government had launched the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) in the year 2002-03 with the objective of encouraging reforms, reducing AT and C loss, improving quality of supply of power and improving consumer satisfaction. The target was to reduce AT and C losses to 15% in five years to begin with in urban and high density consumption areas.

The Central Government has built a national consensus to focus on a time bound programme for reduction of AT and C losses. In the Chief Ministers' Conference held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 28th May 2007, a unanimous resolution was adopted which *inter alia* included the commitment of the States, with appropriate assistance from the Centre, to establish the necessary baseline data and information technology applications for energy accounting and auditing, and for ensuring a resolute elimination of electricity theft.

The Government have approved the continuation of APDRP with some modifications during the Eleventh Five Year Plan with revised terms and conditions as a Central Sector Scheme. Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Power has been appointed as the Nodal Agency for operationalising the APDRP in the Eleventh Plan. The focus of the programme during Eleventh Plan is on actual, demonstrable performance in terms of loss reduction.

Planning Commission has not suggested that private sector should be entrusted with the responsibility of power distribution to check the theft of electricity.

Rural electrification in Chhattisgarh

2274. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval is yet to be granted to some districts of Chhattisgarh under Rural Electrification Scheme;

(b) whether project reports for the same have been obtained;

(c) if so, by when the sanction is proposed to be granted; and

(d) the reasons, if any, for not granting the sanction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Chhattisgarh Government has so far submitted 16 detailed project reports (DPRs) for electrification of 897 un-electrified villages, re-electrification of 80 de-electrified villages and intensive electrification of 17012 already electrified villages covering 37099 habitations for release of over 12.76 lakh rural household connections, including over 7.53 lakh BPL connections. DPR-wise details are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(c) 11 of the 16 projects received under RGGVY have been sanctioned and the balance 5 proposals are to be considered for sanction in phase-II of 11th Plan. DPR-wise details are at Annex.

(d) Capital subsidy of Rs. 28,000 crore has been provided for taking up on-going 235 projects of Tenth Plan Period and new projects during Eleventh Plan period under Phase-I of RGGVY. The Monitoring Committee on RGGVY has identified and sanctioned 558 projects including 235 projects sanctioned during Tenth Plan period. Remaining 5 projects of Chhattisgarh, being high cost projects compared to the benchmark cost, have not been covered in the sanctioned 558 projects due to funds constraint in Phase-I and have been kept for Phase-II of RGGVY during Eleventh Plan Period. These 5 projects will be considered for sanction as and when Phase-II of RGGVY is sanctioned by the competent authority.